

## ABSTRACT

An improved read-write head for use with magnetic disks is described. This improvement has been achieved by providing the read head with shields that are limited to performing only shielding and do not share other magnetic functions with parts of the write head. This allows the write pole to be located very close to the read head since the top shield is no longer required to provide a flux return path, this function now being provided by a separate return flux pole. The separation between the read and write heads is now limited only by the need to achieve an optimum vertical field profile. Two key advantages of this structure are a substantial reduction in the jagging distance of the system and a reduced interference field from the write flux.